CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE IN AN UPSET WORLD

Christianizing Our Attitudes for World Betterment.
"What do ye more than others?" Matt.5:47

INTRO. The importance of our attitudes and the need of christianizing them.
"That position or bearing which gives direction to our actions and feelings."

Religion according to Jesus is more than belief, unless it fructifies into right conduct it is but sham. Actions speak louder than words. Christian attitude is more important than Christian worship. If our attitudes are no different from thoseof others wherein are we better than they? What do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans the same? Do not even the Gentiles the same?

We are living in a period of economic hardship for millions, of irreconcilable conflict of social, economic and political opinions and policies, of bitter partisanship and class war with faschsm and communism making deep inroads into our civilization. What about our Christian attitudes? What should we do more than others in such times as these?

I. In the first place Xns should face the live issues of the day with intense interest and ever increasing sensitiveness. No fighting army can succeed whose general is totally ignorant of and indifferent to the movements of the enemy.

1. The No-God exhibits of Russia.
The no-God exhibits of America
Slums, lynching, gangster crime, unemployment and poverty in the midst of plenty; war actuated by selfishness and greed between capital and labor and many other things that are "No-God exhibits".
We Xns are always deeply concerned about heresy and unbelief theoretically, but strange to say, rather cold and indifferent about the real denials of God in society.

2. Suppose our 60 million Xns of America shoudd see our cruellest social, economic and political wrongs as "No-God exhibits" what would happen?

II. In the second place Christians should apply the standard of judgment which Jesus gave us to all the issues and problems of life of the disturbed social order.

1. It is a simple, concise and effective standard.
   a. The value of personality.
      Prof.McIver of Columbia-"Personality is the only intrinsic value we know."
      In every situation Jesus judged it by wat it did to persons. Whatever elevates, enlarges, and liberates personality is right and whatever crushes and degrades personality is wrong.

2. According to this test I am against
   a. the totalitarian or dictatorial state
   b. sex discrimination
   c. race prejudice (blood and color superficial)
   d. social conditions that degrade and debase personality. Slums, poverty amidst plenty, the deprivation of our educated youth, racketeering, gambling, intemperance.
   [redacted]ar for what it does to persons.

III. Xns, according to this test should not be ruled by group pride, popularly miscalled loyalty.
   It has often happened in history that the privileged classes were wrong and the underdogs right.
   In England, 1834 six men formed a branch of the Grand National-2 Methodist lay preachers, They were charged at their trial with having conspired "to preserve" as they put it, "ourselves, our wives and children from degradation and starvation." Those 6 men were exiled to penal servitude in Australia. A century after an impressive memorial was erected in their memory. The privileged class was wrong, the underdogs were right.

   The case of Jesus himself.

   Priveleged classes of America, beware lest in your pride you precipitate a crop of underdogs who will lead the masses to better conditions.

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The faith in God which we have in Christ ought here and now to bring to us new dimensions, new height, new depth, breadth and length and so, contributing vision, wisdom